

State licenses is as follows. The first paragraph provides general information about the profession and what the health care professionals can do. For this national standard, Marriage and Family Therapists are licensed professionals who provide psychotherapy to couples, families, individuals, and groups. We reiterate that the proposed standard of practice does not contain an exhaustive list of every task and duty that each VA health care professional can perform. Rather, it is designed to highlight generally what tasks and duties the health care professionals perform and how they will be able to practice within VA notwithstanding their State license, certification, registration, or other State requirements.

The second paragraph references the education and State license, or other requirement, needed to practice this profession at VA. Qualification standards for employment of health care professionals by VA are outlined in VA Handbook 5005, Staffing, dated November 8, 2023. VA follows the requirements outlined in the VA qualification standards even if the requirements conflict with or differ from a State requirement. National standards of practice do not affect those requirements. For Marriage and Family Therapists, VA qualification standards require an active, current, full, and unrestricted State license.

The second paragraph also notes whether the national standard of practice explicitly excludes individuals who practice under “grandfathering” provisions. Qualification standards may include provisions to permit employees who met all requirements prior to revisions to the qualification standards to maintain employment at VA even if they no longer meet the new qualification standards. This practice is referred to as grandfathering. Marriage and Family Therapists have grandfathering provisions included within its qualification standards, and VA proposes to have those individuals be authorized to follow the Marriage and Family Therapist national standard of practice. Therefore, there would be no notation regarding grandfathered employees in the national standard of practice as they would be required to adhere to the same standard as any other VA Marriage and Family Therapist who meets the current qualification standards.

The third paragraph describes what tasks and duties the profession will be able to perform within the scope of their VA employment. It includes whether the profession can practice all duties covered by their State license. For

Marriage and Family Therapists, VA reviewed State license requirements and found no variance in how VA Marriage and Family Therapists practice in any State.

This national standard of practice does not address training because it will not authorize VA Marriage and Family Therapists to perform any tasks or duties not already authorized under their State license.

Following public and VA employee comments and revisions, each national standard of practice that is published into policy will also include the date for recertification of the standard of practice and a point of contact for questions or concerns.

Proposed National Standard of Practice for Marriage and Family Therapist

1. Marriage and Family Therapists provide psychotherapy to couples, families, individuals, and groups. These professionals are licensed to diagnose and treat mental health disorders such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and other mental health disorders. Marriage and Family Therapists have specialized training in family systems theory and are well qualified to treat relationships issues, including marriage or couples counseling, and child-parent challenges.

2. Marriage and Family Therapists in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) possess the education and license required by VA qualification standards. See VA Handbook 5005, Staffing, Part II, Appendix G44, dated April 18, 2018.

3. VA Marriage and Family Therapists can practice all duties covered by their license. VA reviewed license requirements for this occupation in February 2024 and confirmed there is no variance in how VA Marriage and Family Therapists practice in any State.

Request for Information

1. Is VA’s assessment of what States allow and do not allow accurate?
2. Are there any other areas of variance between State licenses, certification, or registration that VA should preempt that are not listed?
3. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about this VA national standard of practice?

Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved and signed this document on April 5, 2024, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication

electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Luvenia Potts,

Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900–0209]

Agency Information Collection Activity Under OMB Review: Application for Work Study Allowance, Student Work Study Agreement-Advance Payment, Extended Student Work Study Agreement, Student Work Study Agreement

AGENCY: Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden, and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice by clicking on the following link www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain, select “Currently under Review—Open for Public Comments”, then search the list for the information collection by Title or “OMB Control No. 2900–0209.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maribel Aponte, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics (008), 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 266–4688 or email Maribel.aponte@va.gov. Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0209” in any correspondence.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3485; 38 CFR 21.4145.

Title: Application for Work Study Allowance [VA Form 22–8691]; Student Work Study Agreement-Advance Payment [VA Form 22–8692]; Extended Student Work Study Agreement [VA

Form 22–8692a); Student Work Study Agreement [VA Form 22–8692b].

OMB Control Number: 2900–0209.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Abstract: VA uses the information collected to determine the individual's eligibility for the work-study allowance, the number of hours the individual will work, the amount payable, whether the individual desires an advance payment, and whether the individual wants to extend the work-study contract.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection of information was published at 89 FR 12946 on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, page(s) 12946–12947.

Affected Public: Individuals and households.

Estimated Annual Burden: 7,542 hours.

Estimated Average Burden Time per Respondent: 23 minutes [15 min. VAF 22–8691]; [5 min. VAFs 22–8692 and 22–8692b]; [3 min. VAF 22–8692a].

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 75,451.

By direction of the Secretary.

Maribel Aponte,

VA PRA Clearance Officer, Office of Enterprise and Integration, Data Governance Analytics, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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